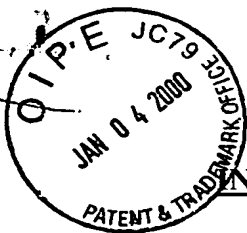


PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

Applicant: Luciano F. Paone

Examiner: Elmore, Reba

Serial No.: 08/989,261

Group Art Unit: 2767

Filed: December 12, 1997

Docket: 831-2

For: COMPUTER IMPLEMENTED
SECRET OBJECT KEY BLOCK CIPHER
ENCRYPTION AND DIGITAL
SIGNATURE DEVICE AND METHOD

Dated: December 29, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.

20231 on December 29, 1999

Dated: 12/29/99, Maureen Esposito

AMENDMENT

Sir:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) A computer implemented method as defined in Claim 1

wherein the modification method of said random session object key includes a hashing
function.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 29, 1999 and the references cited therein have been
carefully considered. At the outset, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Elmore for the
courtesies extended their counsel during a telephone interview conducted on December 22, 1999.
During the telephone interview, each of the references of record were generally discussed. Since
the original Examiner has left the Patent Office, Examiner Elmore agreed that the next action,
if not a Notice of Allowance, would not be made final.

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